


PAM.
CHINA

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A Letter from 

Mo Ka Garden, Soochow, China

Atkinson, Virginia M.

SOOCHOW, June 24th, 1915.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:—

I feel that an explanation is due to our many friends and supporters because this circular letter should have been written in April. A rush of duties and troubles which demanded attention claimed my time and all the strength and wisdom at my disposal, so now as late as this I come to tell you something of how God has been blessing us and yet purifying us through suffering. The year has not been all sunshine, but we have been growing and developing through all that He has allowed to come to us and we feel that we are stronger now and know better how to fight our adversary because we know more about his strength and the subtlety of his plans. As to numbers Davidson School has



MISS JAU (MAY WINDSOR) WITH HER VOLUNTARY BIBLE CLASS.

prospered, having reached the high water mark of one hundred and sixty in regular attendance.

Financially we have much to encourage us since our receipts are constantly increasing. Our prosperity however and the growing confidence of the Chinese in us are our greatest causes for embarrassment. We have come to realize that we are unhygienically crowded and must cut down our numbers until we can plan and make changes in our buildings, so we are not giving out catalogs soliciting students, and are hoping that in the autumn we may lose some of those we have. We are graduating from the eight years' course six lovely girls. One expects to make evangelistic work her life work and will enter the Union Bible School at Nanking this autumn. One will go to Changchow to teach for Miss Anderson. Two others are going to take kindergarten training, and the last two will

perhaps teach a year and then go to Laura Haygood. They are all good girls, only one of their number having given us the least cause for anxiety. They have all done Christian work, both in connection with the Sunday School and the Y. W. C. A. We will greatly miss them in the Davidson for we have never had a class that has given us such satisfaction. One of them, "Josephine Goodman," is to give a paper at the Y. W. C. A. Conference at Hangchow.

We have also a most interesting class of nineteen to graduate from the primary into the grammar school. A number of these have come up from the kindergarten, being the first that we had to graduate from there into the primary. Their scholarship in most cases leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Otis has been giving twelve and a half hours a week to English and physical training since Miss Beadle married. She is leaving now,



ADULT DEPARTMENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL.

and in her we are losing a valuable, conscientious worker, and one who brought us only good. Our love and deep interest will follow her into her new life and work. Miss Lester returned to us last autumn and has been faithfully working up the Bible and English departments in the Davidson as well as the Bible department in the Kindergarten Training School. We feel sure that with her thorough preparation and faithful help our school is going to be brought more up to date. Miss Hendry has had charge of our music department and the pupils' progress has been most satisfactory. It was fortunate for us that Miss Hendry's application to come to China and our need occurred at the same time, for she is just the one for us in every respect. Miss Robinson came to us last October for language study. Orders were that she was to make study her one business for the year and that no work was to be given that would interfere with that. She has had good health

and has done splendidly on the language, being ready for the last examination on the first year's course. She has taught one class of beginners in English which has been a pleasure and a help to her as well as the children. She will be ready for a full half day's work this autumn.

Our Kindergarten Training School has been running for five years with Miss Martin in charge. A number of graduates of the institution are now conducting kindergartens in many parts of China. Other missions and other provinces have patronized us more than our own and the school has really been union though not in name. There are nine kindergartens in Soochow, seven of which would probably never have existed but for our Training School. Two of these are opened by the government. Miss Martin is leaving us now for a very different line of work, but she has the satisfaction of seeing before she



KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN.

leaves many good results from her service here. A class of seven young women will graduate this week and all are employed for the autumn except one and she has been asked for. Two kindergartens are conducted on the place all the time and there have been about eighty children in them this year. We feared that no one would be found to take Miss Martin's place in the kindergarten work, but the very best possible news has come to us and that is that Miss Hackney of the Nashville Training School who has had experience in organizing as well as in teaching has consented to come to us. With her in charge our Training School will be a success and we no longer fear for the future.

The Moka Garden Embroidery Mission which is also in our compound has had a wonderfully prosperous year. Miss Burkhead is the Principal and business manager and she has advertised in a very thorough way so that orders have poured in. The Christmas



LARGE WORK-ROOM OF EMROIDERY MISSION.

sale held here last year was a success, and the spring sale at Nanking this year was just as big and a little bigger than we had faith to ask for. Our goods sell readily and we are known and appreciated far and near. Many tourists are among our customers and our agency in Alabama is helping us out too in spite of the war. In the evangelistic department four women give all or a portion of their time to teaching the Bible to the one hundred and fifty embroiderers. The life stories of most of these women are pitiful and we consider it a privilege to be able to bring to them our gospel which can heal and bless them in such a real way. Many of them have accepted Christ and numbers of them have become Christian workers. Some of them go to our Bible School in Sungkiang for further preparation. Some use the preparation we give them and do some good work, and our first graduate from the Union Bible School in Nanking began her real career among ns

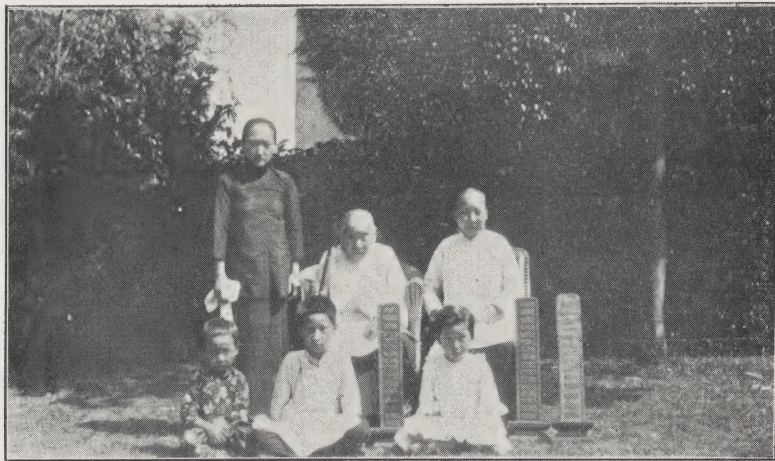


NORMAL CLASS, WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT SUNDAY SCHOOL.

as a poor little embroiderer before the school had a home or even a name. She afterwards had about six years in the Davidson. Miss Otis has for four years had charge of the designing department and we will miss her in this as well as in the Davidson but we are trusting that God will provide a worthy successor to her.

Miss Tarrant has had charge of the Day Schools and Woman's work connected with the plant. The day schools are not on this compound, but are a real part of the work and of the success of the compound. Miss Tarrant is taking a short furlough now, but expects to be back at her work by next February.

Recently a number of people united with the church and among them were the great grandmother, the grandmother, and the little grandson, representatives of three generations. The mother of the little boy comes, but was not at that time ready for baptism.



RECENTLY CONVERTED FAMILY WITH THEIR ANCESTRAL TABLETS, WHICH WERE
GIVEN TO MISS TARRANT WHEN THEY JOINED THE CHURCH.

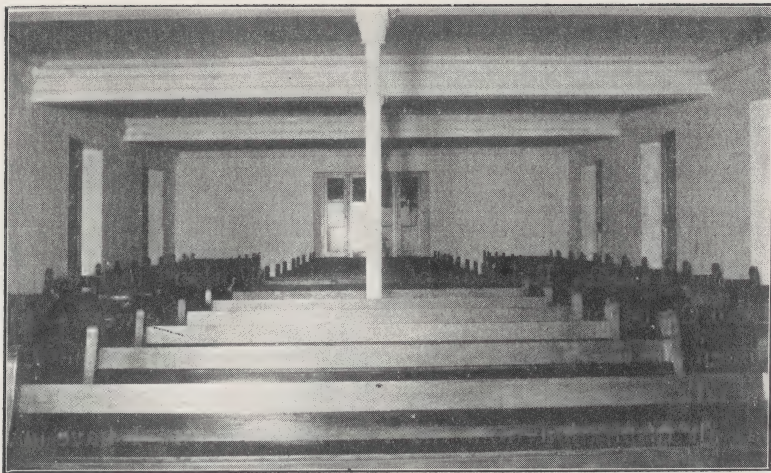
The great grandmother is eighty-five years old. The old face was not exactly pretty that day but there was a light in it and a sweetness that the heathen do not possess nor understand. Scores of people whose hearts and lives have been developed by what this compound has to give are now out representing Christ in all kinds of ways as He has led them. Our Sunday School this year numbers nearly eight hundred. The most beautiful part is the way the young Christians among the boys and girls are being developed by having the care of the younger children. The readiness with which they take up the work makes us know that ere long our Chinese Christians are going to make themselves responsible as far as possible for their own home missions.

In May our annual Bible-woman's Institute was held here on our compound. We had in attendance more than one hundred Bible-women, teachers, and preachers' wives.



JUNIOR DEPARTMENT SUNDAY SCHOOL, STUDENT TEACHERS AT WORK.

The days were crowded with talks and discussions. Besides a number of ladies in our own mission who were free to help we were fortunate in being able to secure the services of Miss Paxson, Student Secretary of the Y. W. C. A. for China, and our Mrs. Fitch of the Presbyterian Mission, Shanghai. Our own able Presiding Elder, Rev. Z. D. Li, also helped us with a number of talks. Such subjects as the following were presented, viz., Qualifications of Soul Winners, The Sufficiency of Jesus, The Lordship of Jesus, Freedom in Christ, Asking and Taking, Relation of Christian Workers to Present Day Society in China, How to Lead Christians into Christian Service, etc. We were so glad to be able to have Chinese women on the program and a Chinese woman as the Chairman of the meeting. One fine talk was made by Mrs. Y. N. Woo, a former pupil of McTyeire School. The Institute was an inspiration from the very first day and I have never heard at any



EMBROIDERY MISSION CHAPEL.

meeting better or more earnest talks. That meeting was one of our special joys and blessings during the spring term. There must be fruits because not only two or three were gathered together in prayer for it, but many prayed and are still praying, and we know that it is His will that those messages bring forth fruit that shall remain.

The year with its opportunities and all else that it brought to us is drawing to a close. May God bless every earnest effort put forth for His glory and overrule all mistakes for the good of our dear people whose souls have been entrusted to us. We are grateful for your prayers and for the material help which constantly comes to us from you. We are aware that this year has been a hard one for you who labor to support us and this great work, but you have not failed us in anything. We pray for you as you do for us.

Most faithfully,

VIRGINIA M. ATKINSON.



